



ABC

of the
UNITED NATIONS



Class : 4, 5 & 6

Category : Junior

ABC OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Revised every year since 1986

"This is an honest effort to present the must-know information about UN precisely and in the simplest manner."

Founder Author

Late Mr. Jiya Lal Jain

Founder and Secretary General

United Schools Organisation of India

**FOUNDER AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNITED SCHOOLS
ORGANISATION OF INDIA LATE MR. JIYA LAL JAIN**



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PREFACE

This book provides an overview about the United Nations, how it came into being, its main aims and objectives, and how it functions. Details about the Specialized agencies, work done by the United Nations, Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals and much more can be found in USC books for Pre-Senior and Senior categories.

The United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;*
- to develop friendly relations among nations;*
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; and*
- to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.*

Cooperating in this effort are more than 30 affiliated organizations, known together as the UN system. The United Nations is not a world government, and it does not make laws. It does, however, provide the means to help resolve international conflicts and formulate policies on matters affecting us all.

At the UN, all the Member States-large and small, rich and poor, with differing political views and social systems have a voice and a vote. The United Nations gives an opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests when addressing international problems.

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CHAPTER 1

Formation of the United Nations

World War I, which took place from 1914 to 1918, created a great deal of fear and anxiety in the world. The devastation (*meaning: great destruction or damage*) and suffering of the people, forced the world leaders to form an international body that could prevent wars in the future. With this aim, the League of Nations was formed in 1919.

However, the League of Nations, was unable to prevent World War II, which went on from 1939 to 1945. New weapons like atomic bombs were used during World War II, which caused even more loss of lives and destruction of property. This gave rise to an even greater need for an international body to bring peace and ensure harmony was created among nations. This is how the United Nations came into being.

United Nations was the outcome of multiple meetings, conferences and seminars over several years. Below is the brief list of such events:

The Declaration of St. James's Palace

When: 12 June, 1941
Where: London, United Kingdom
Attendees: Representatives of 9 exiled governments who were victims of World War II, as well as other nations.
Outcome: Declaration, urging peace, was signed.

Atlantic Charter

When: 14 August, 1941
Where: Aboard the US battleship, USS Augusta in the Atlantic Ocean

USO INDIA

- Attendees:** Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of United Kingdom and Franklin Roosevelt, the President of the United States of America.
- Outcome:** Decision to work together to establish peace and international security.

Declaration of The United Nations

- When:** 1 January 1942
- Where:** Washington DC, USA
- Attendees:** Government of 26 countries, including the Allied 'Big Four' (USA, UK, USSR and China)
- Outcome:** All 26 countries signed a short document urging peace. This later came to be known as 'United Nations Declaration'.

Moscow and Tehran Conference

- When:** October 1943 – Moscow
- Where:** 1 December, 1943 - Tehran
- Attendees:** Foreign Ministers of United Kingdom, United States of America and former USSR
- Outcome:** Definition for the basis of a world organisation in which "men in all lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want". The representatives agreed to set up a world organisation of nations to keep peace once the war ended. This came to be known as the 'Moscow Declaration'.

Dumbarton Oaks and Yalta

- When:** 7 October 1944
- Where:** Dumbarton Oaks, Washington DC, USA
- Attendees:** Representatives of China, United Kingdom, United States of America and USSR
- Outcome:** Proposal for the structure of the world organization was submitted by the four powers to all the United Nations governments and to the peoples of all countries for their

study and discussion. The leaders agreed on purposes and principles of the future 'United Nations'.

- When: 11 February, 1945
Where: Yalta, Crimea, USSR
Attendees: Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of United Kingdom; Franklin Roosevelt, the President of the United States of America; Joseph Stalin, premier of USSR.
Outcome: Resolution to form an international organisation to main peace and security. Adopted the Atlantic Charter, wherein a plan for world peace was outlined. They also agreed that the voting system be used in the Security Council.

The San Francisco Conference

- When: 26 June, 1945
Where: San Francisco, USA
Attendees: 50 nations, including the four sponsors
Outcome: The Representatives of all 50 countries unanimously adopted the Charter of the United Nations at this Conference.

It was on **October 24th, 1945**, that the majority of countries, including the five permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, USA, UK and USSR) signed the UN Charter and officially recognized it. This fulfilled all conditions, and the United Nations came into being on this day. This is the reason why October 24th is observed as UN Day.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a milestone document in the history of human rights which has been

drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world. The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December, 1948. This document spells out the fundamental human rights to be universally protected. It has been translated into over 500 languages.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the result of the experience of the Second World War and the United Nations. The Commission on Human Rights was made up of 18 members from various political, cultural and religious backgrounds. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of American President Franklin D. Roosevelt, chaired the drafting committee, and was recognized as the driving force for the adoption of the Declaration. The draft declaration was sent to all UN Member States for comments, and this became known as the Geneva draft. The entire text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was composed in less than two years. *(photo 1.1 on page P1)*

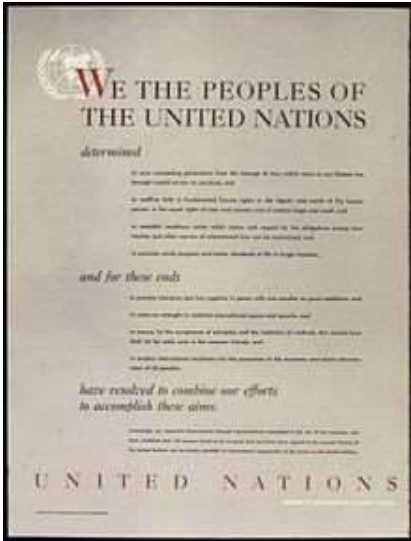


Is there a set of rules or principles that guides the United Nations in its work?

Yes, it is called the Charter of the United Nations. It is a set of guidelines that explains the rights and duties of each Member country, and what needs to be done to achieve the goals they have set for themselves. When a nation becomes a Member of the UN, it accepts the aims and rules of the Charter.

The UN Charter

The **Charter of the United Nations** (also known as the **UN Charter**) of 1945 is the foundational treaty of the United Nations. The UN Charter articulates a commitment to uphold human rights of citizens and has outlined a broad set of



principles relating to achieving higher standards of living, addressing economic, social, health, and related problems, and universal respect for, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion. All members are bound by the UN Charter and as per Article 103 of the Charter, obligations to the United Nations prevail over all other treaty obligations.

The Charter was signed at the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Centre in San Francisco, United States, on 26 June 1945, by 50 of the 51 original member countries (Poland, the other original member, which was not represented at the conference, signed it two months later). It entered into force on 24 October 1945, after being ratified by the original five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - China, France, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and the United States - and a majority of the other signatories. The Statute of the International Court of Justice is an integral part of the Charter.

The Charter consists of a **preamble** and **chapters**: The **preamble** consists of two principal parts. The first part contains a general call for the maintenance of peace and international security and respect for human rights. The second part of the preamble is a declaration (in a contract style) that the Members of the United Nations have agreed to the Charter.

There are **XIX chapters** in all. Each chapter further contains several articles.

- **Chapter I** (Articles 1-2): contains the purposes of the United Nations, including the important provisions of the maintenance of international peace and security;
- **Chapter II** (Articles 3-6): defines the criteria for membership to the United Nations;
- **Chapters III–XV** (Articles 7-101): describes the organs and institutions of the UN and their respective powers;
- **Chapters XVI** (Articles 102-105) **and Chapter XVII** (Articles 106-107) describes arrangements for integrating the UN with established international law.
- **Chapters XVIII** (Articles 108-109) **and Chapter XIX** (Articles 110-111) provide for amendment and ratification of the Charter.

The following chapters deal with the enforcement powers of UN bodies:

- **Chapter VI** describes the Security Council's power to investigate and mediate disputes;
- **Chapter VII** describes the Security Council's power to authorize economic, diplomatic, and military sanctions, as well as the use of military force, to resolve disputes;
- **Chapter VIII** makes it possible for regional arrangements to maintain peace and security within their own region;
- **Chapters IX and Chapter X** describe the Economic and Social Council's powers;
- **Chapters XII and Chapter XIII** describe the Trusteeship Council, which oversaw decolonization;
- **Chapters XIV and Chapter XV** establish the powers of, respectively, the International Court of Justice and the United Nations Secretariat.
- **Chapters XVI through Chapter XIX** deal respectively with XVI: miscellaneous provisions, XVII: transitional security arrangements related to World War II, XVIII: the charter amendment process, and XIX: ratification of the charter.

IN CASE YOU WERE *wondering...*

Where did the name 'United Nations' come from?

The name 'United Nations' was suggested by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was first officially used in 1942, when representatives of 26 countries signed the Declaration by United Nations. As a tribute to President Roosevelt, who died a few weeks before the signing of the Charter, all those present at the San Francisco Conference agreed to adopt the name 'United Nations'.

Was this the first time that such an organization had been created?

A similar organization, the League of Nations, was set up in 1919, following World War I. Its main objective was to keep world peace. However, not every country joined the League. The United States, for example, was never a member. Others that had joined the League of Nations, later quit. Though it did not succeed, the League ignited a dream for a universal organization. The result was the United Nations.

So, is the United Nations like a world government?

No. Governments represent countries and peoples. The United Nations represents neither a particular government nor any one nation. It represents all its Members and does only what the Member States decide that it should do.

Chapter 2

United Nations – An Overview

What is the United Nations?

The United Nations is a unique organisation of independent countries that have come together to work for world peace and social progress. The organisation formally came into existence on 24 October 1945, with 51 countries considered as the founding Members. The main aims and objectives of the United Nations are to:

Maintain international peace and security

By working to prevent conflict, help parties in conflict make peace, creating conditions to allow peace.

Protect human rights

Human rights has been mentioned 7 times in the UN Charter and is one of the key purposes and guiding principles of the UN.

Deliver humanitarian aid

The United Nations helps the international community with humanitarian relief operations from natural and man-made disasters.

Promote sustainable development

Sustainable development is the development that promotes prosperity and economic opportunity, greater social well-being, and protection of the environment.

Uphold international law

The work is carried out by courts, tribunal, multilateral treaties.

UN Headquarters

The United Nations headquarters are located in New York, USA. In 1946, the General Assembly decided to locate the UN headquarters to the United States. Philadelphia, Boston and San Francisco were other US cities being considered for the location of UN Headquarters. However, John D. Rockefeller Jr. gave the current site as a gift (around \$8.5 million), and later the City of New York offered additional land as a gift. The site chosen was a run-down area of slaughterhouses, a railroad garage building and other commercial buildings. The headquarters has been designed to serve four major groups:

- delegations (from each of the member states);
- the international staff or Secretariat;
- visitors;
- journalists (several of these are permanently accredited and present during the major meetings).

On 24 October 1949, Secretary-General Trygve Lie laid the cornerstone of the 39-storey building. On 21 August 1950, the Secretariat staff began moving into their new offices. *(The photograph on the cover page of this study book, is the UN Headquarters at New York).*



Who owns the United Nations Headquarters?

The United Nations Headquarters is an international zone. This means that the land on which the UN sits does not belong to just the United Nations, the host country, but to all the Members of the United Nations. The UN has its own flag and its own security officers who guard the area. It also has its own post office and issues its own stamps. These stamps can be used only from UN Headquarters or from UN offices in Vienna and Geneva.

Secretary General

The Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations is the Secretary General. The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council. The Secretary General's selection is therefore subject to the vote of any of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The general term of office for the Secretary General is generally five-year renewable term. Although there is no limit to number of five-year terms a Secretary-General may serve, none so far has held office for more than two terms.

The present Secretary General of the UN, and the ninth occupant of the post, is **Mr. António Guterres from Portugal**. (*photo 1.2 on page P1*). He took charge on 1 January, 2017.

The main functions of the Secretary General are as follows:

- To propose issues to be discussed by the General Assembly or any other organ of the United Nations;
- To bring to the attention of the Security Council any problem which the Secretary General feels may threaten world peace;
- To act as a 'referee' in disputes between Member States;
- To offer his or her 'good offices'.



Does the Secretary General act alone?

No. The Secretary General does not act without the support and approval of the United Nations members states. Any course of action, whether it concerns sending peacekeeping troops to war-torn areas or helping a country rebuild after a war or a natural disaster, must be set by the Member States.

Member States

As per the Charter of the United Nations, membership is open to all peace-loving States that accept the obligations contained in the Charter and are able to carry out these obligations. Each country is provided membership by decision of the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

The United Nations does not possess any authority to recognize either a State or Government. The United Nations is an organization of independent States, and can admit a country to its membership. It can also accept the credentials of the representatives of a new Government.



goals they have set for themselves. When a nation becomes a Member of the UN, it accepts the aims and rules of the Charter.

Can any country apply for membership to the United Nations?

Yes, any peace-loving country can apply to become a member of the United Nations. The procedure to be a member is as follows:



- The Country submits an application to the Secretary-General and a letter formally stating that it accepts the obligations under the Charter;
- The Security Council considers the application. Any recommendation for admission must receive the affirmative votes of 9 of the 15 members of the Council, provided that none of its five permanent members — China, France, the Russian Federation, the United

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America — have voted against the application;

- If the Council recommends admission, the recommendation is presented to the General Assembly for consideration. A two-thirds majority vote is necessary in the Assembly for admission of a new State;
- Membership becomes effective the date the resolution for admission is adopted.

At each session, the General Assembly considers the credentials of all representatives of Member States participating in that session. During such consideration, which routinely takes place first in the nine-member Credentials Committee (but can arise at other times), the issue can be raised whether a particular representative has been accredited by the Government which is actually in power. This issue is ultimately decided by a majority vote in the Assembly. A change in government (of any country) through the democratic election, does not raise any issues concerning the credentials of the representative of the State concerned.

Since its inception, no country has ever been expelled from membership. Indonesia temporarily quit the UN in 1965 over a dispute with neighbouring Malaysia, but returned the following year.

Non-Member States

Non-member States have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent observer missions at Headquarters. Presently, there are two such missions:

- Permanent Observer of Mission of the Holy See – Vatican City, to the United Nations;
- Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations.

Permanent Observers

Non-Member States of the United Nations, which are members of one or more Specialized Agencies can apply to be a Permanent Observer. Usually, observers are put forward by certain States that later become United Nations members.

The status of a Permanent Observer is based purely on practice, and there are no provisions for it in the United Nations Charter. The practice dates back to 1946, when the Secretary General accepted the designation of the Swiss Government as a Permanent Observer to the United Nations. Observers were subsequently put forward by certain States that later became United Nations Members, including Austria, Finland, Italy, and Japan. Switzerland became a UN Member on 10 September 2002.

Permanent Observers have free access to most meetings and relevant documentation. Many regional and international organizations are also observers in the work and annual sessions of the General Assembly.



- 51 countries were members of the United Nations in 1945 when it started;
- There are **195 countries** in the world today. Presently, 193 countries are members of the United Nations. 2 countries that are non-member observer states are: **The Holy See, Vatican City** and the **State of Palestine**;

- India joined the United Nations before its Independence, on October 30, 1945 while it was still part of the British Empire;
- The last country to join the United Nations (as a Member) is South Sudan. They became a member of the United Nations on July 14, 2011;
- Before South Sudan, Montenegro joined the UN in 2006;
- Memberships vary with each Main Organ and Specialized Agency of the UN;
- Interesting facts about UN Secretaries General (*photos and terms of office - photo 1.3 on page P2*):
 - Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary General of the United Nations, died in a plane crash. He is the only UN Secretary-General to die while holding a position with United Nations and the only person ever to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously (after death);
 - Kofi Annan is a twin, a particularly respected thing in the Ghanaian culture. The Akan people of Ghana often name their children after the day of the week they were born. The name, Kofi, is given to boys born on a Friday;
 - When elected Secretary General, Ban-Ki-Moon surprised everyone by singing a version of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" with the lyrics "*Ban Ki-moon is coming to town*" instead.

Chapter 3

Structure of the United Nations

The structure of the United Nations is based on the UN Charter, which was signed on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization. It came into force on 24 October 1945.

The UN Charter is comprised of 19 chapters and 111 articles. Each of these articles explain how the United Nations functions. The Statute of the International Court of Justice is an integral part of the Charter.

Main Organs of the United Nations

The United Nations carries on its work in all countries around the world. This can only be managed and done through their:

- Main organs
- Specialized Agencies

There are 6 main organs of United Nations that were established in 1945, when the United Nations was founded. Each has a unique role in the UN, and have varied memberships. The main organs of the UN are:

- The General Assembly
- The Security Council
- The Economic and Social Council
- The Trusteeship Council
- The International Court of Justice
- The Secretariat

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (*photo 1.5 on page P3*)

- The General Assembly is the main policymaking and representative organ of the UN;
- All 193 Member States are represented in the General Assembly, with each State having one vote;
- Decisions of issues such as international peace and security, admitting new members and the UN budget are decided by 2/3 majority; All other matters are decided by a simple majority;
- In recent years, a special effort has been made to reach decisions through consensus, rather than a formal vote;
- The meetings of the General Assembly are held annually in September, running throughout the year, and is attended by all Member States;
- At the start of each regular session, the Assembly holds a general debate at which Heads of State or Government, present their views on a wide range of issues or concerns to the international community, from war and terrorism to disease and poverty;
- All discussions take place in its six main committees:
 - First Committee (Disarmament {*meaning : the reduction or withdrawal of military weapons*} and International Security);
 - Second Committee (Economic and Financial);
 - Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural);
 - Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization);
 - Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary);
 - Sixth Committee (Legal);
- The President of the General Assembly is elected for a 1-year term;
- The General Assembly Hall, accommodates all 193 delegates. Each delegation has six seats, and there is a gallery for media and the public; The countries are seated in alphabetical order;
- The headquarters are located at New York, USA.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL (*photo 1.6 on page P3*)

- The main responsibility of the Security Council is the maintenance of international peace and security; There are a total of 15 Members (five permanent and ten non-permanent members). Each member has one vote. Only permanent members have the right to a veto vote;
- The five permanent members of the Security Council are: China, France, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States;

The ten non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms and are chosen on the basis of geographical representation;

- A meeting of the Security Council can be called at any time, even on a short notice;
- The Security Council calls upon the parties to settle disputes by peaceful means and suggests methods and terms of settlement. The Security Council also has the right to impose sanctions on nations or use force to maintain or restore peace and security;
- The Security Council has a rotating Presidency which changes each month. They serve in the English alphabetical order of the names of their countries;

To pass a resolution in the Security Council, nine members of the Council must vote 'yes'. If any of the five permanent members vote 'no', then the resolution does not pass;

The Security Council chamber is a gift from Norway. A large mural designed by Per Krohg (Norway) symbolizes the promise of future peace and individual freedom, and covers most of the east wall;

- The headquarters of the Security Council are located in New York, USA.

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

- The Economic and Social Council is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues;
- The Council comprises of 54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms;
- Each member has one vote;
- The Council is the central mechanism for activities of the UN system and its specialized agencies in the economic, social and environmental fields;
- ECOSOC is headed by a President;
- Its headquarters are based in New York, USA.

THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

- The Trusteeship Council was established in 1945, by UN Charter under Chapter XIII;
- The Council was formed to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories (mostly in Africa and in the Pacific Ocean) that had been placed under the administration of seven Member States, and to ensure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government and independence;
- The Council composed of the permanent members of the Security Council. Each member had one vote;
- Since all Territories had attained independence or self-government by 1994, the Trusteeship Council suspended its operation on 1 November, 1994, when the last Trust Territory, Palau (formerly administered by the United States) achieved self-government;
- As per a resolution adopted on 25 May 1994, the Council amended its rules of procedure to drop the obligation to meet annually and agreed to meet as required-by its decision or the decision of its President, or at the request of a majority of its members or the General Assembly or the Security Council;
- It has its headquarters in New York, USA.

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

- The International Court of Justice is the main judicial organ of the United Nations;
- The ICJ was established in 1946;
- The primary role of ICJ is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by Member States and give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies;
- Only countries, not individuals, can take cases before the Court;
- Other organs of the UN may also seek an advisory opinion from the Court;
- The ICJ consists of a panel of fifteen judges who are elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council. No two judges can come from the same country;
- Nine judges have to agree before a decision can be made;
- Headquarters: Peace Palace, Hague, Netherlands.

THE UN SECRETARIAT

- The Secretariat comprises of the Secretary General and several international UN staff members who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal organs;
- The Secretary-General is Chief Administrative Officer, and is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council;
- The Secretary General is appointed for a five-year, renewable term;
- UN staff members are recruited internationally and locally, and work in various capacities, on numerous missions all around the world;
- The Secretariat is based out of New York, USA

IN CASE YOU WERE *wondering...*

What is a 'veto' vote?

At the end of World War II, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States played key roles in the establishment of the United Nations. The creators of the UN Charter conceived that these five countries would continue to play important roles in the maintenance of international peace and security. This is the reason why the 'big five' were given a special voting power called the 'right to veto' (power to vote against or reject). If any of these countries or 'the big five' decide to exercise their right to veto, the resolution in the Security Council would not be approved.

What happens when a country ignores the decisions of the Security Council?

When decisions of the Security Council are not complied with, the Council may take several actions to ensure their implementation. Should a country threaten or breach the peace or commit an act of aggression, it may impose economic and trade sanctions, or other specific measures such as arms and travel ban and diplomatic restrictions. It can also authorize the use of force in certain instances. But these measures are usually a last resort, to be used only if peaceful means of settling a dispute have been exhausted.

The Security Council can authorize a coalition of Member States to use "all necessary means", including military action, to deal with a conflict as for example:

- in 1991 to restore the sovereignty of Kuwait after its invasion by Iraq;

- in 1992 to secure the environment for humanitarian relief to be delivered in Somalia;
- in 1994 to restore the democratically-elected government in Haiti;
- in 1999 to restore peace and security in East Timor.

What is decolonization?

Until 1945, nearly half of the world lived in countries that were controlled by outsiders. These countries, known as colonies, were divided by a handful of major powers (e.g.: United Kingdom, France, Portugal). United Nations has helped several of these countries gain independence and this process is called decolonization. In 1960, the General Assembly, adopted a declaration to urge the speedy independence of all colonies.



- It is the General Assembly who decides how much each Member State pays to run the United Nations and how this money is spent;
- The Security Council recommends to the General Assembly who should be appointed as the Secretary General of the United Nations;
- In 2006, Judge Rosalyn Higgins (United Kingdom), was the sole woman Member of the Court and was elected the first female President of the International Court for a term of three years.

CHAPTER 4

More About the United Nations

There is a lot more about United Nations that meets the eye. Some key and interesting information includes details on the logo, the design, the UN Flag, the UN languages.

UN Logo and Flag

The Design

The original UN logo was created by a team of designers during the United Nations Conference on International Organization in 1945. The design team was led by Oliver Lincoln Lundquist.

The United Nations Emblem

The design is "a map of the world representing an azimuthal equidistant projection centred on the North Pole, inscribed in a wreath consisting of crossed conventionalized branches of the olive tree, in gold on a field of smoke-blue with all water areas in white. The projection of the map extends to 60 degrees south latitude, and includes five concentric circles" (original description of the emblem).



The United Nations Flag

The United Nations Flag (*photo 1.7 on page P4*) has a blue background with a white emblem in the centre. The emblem has a world map with olive branches around it signifying world peace. The emblem should be one half the height of the flag and entirely centred.

Approval: The UN logo was approved on 7 December 1946. The UN Flag was adopted by the General Assembly of the UN on October 20, 1947.

The UN logo has been incorporated into the logos of several UN Family members. The logo is also used on United Nations stamps. (*photo 1.4 on page P2*)

Official Languages of the United Nations

There are six official languages of the UN (*photo 1.8 on page P4*). The correct interpretation and translation of these six languages, in both spoken and written form, is critical as it enables clear and concise communication on issues of global importance. The six official languages are:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- French
- Russian
- Spanish

A delegate may speak in any official UN language. The speech is interpreted to other official languages of the United Nations by numerous translators or interpreters. At times, a delegate may choose to make a statement using a non-official language. In such cases, the delegation must provide either an interpretation or a written text of the statement in one of the official languages. Most UN documents are issued in all six official languages, requiring translation from the original document.

The history of the UN's official languages, presented by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, gives the history of when each of the six official languages of the United Nations became official, beginning in 1946.

The Department of Public Information has established language days for each of the UN's six official languages. The

purpose of the UN's language days is to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization. The days are as follows:

- Arabic (18 December)
- Chinese (20 April)
- English (23 April)
- Spanish (23 April)
- French (20 March)
- Russian (6 June)



Does the UN have an anthem?

The UN does not have an official anthem or hymn. The *General Assembly* recognized the need for an official song and reserved the right to select and adopt one. So far, no decision has been taken. In 1970, Maestro Pablo Casals of Spain set music to a hymn written in honour of the UN by English poet W.H. Auden. This hymn was performed on UN Day in 1971 at UN Headquarters.

Funding of the United Nations

Who pays for the work of the United Nations?

The 193 Member States of the United Nations pay for everything that the Organization does. The United Nations has no other source of income.



Article 17, paragraph 2 of the Charter states that:

The expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly.

Types of Budget

There are two types of budgets at the UN, and payments to the UN for both budgets are compulsory by all Member States. The budgets are:

- Regular budget: includes the core functions at UN headquarters in New York and field offices around the world;
- Peacekeeping budget: pays for various operations around the world;

Members pay according to a scale of assessments agreed by all. This scale is based on a country's ability to pay, the national income and population. The General Assembly approves the regular budget for the United Nations for a two-year period. The budget that gets approved, pays for UN activities, staff and basic infrastructure.

Committee on Contributions

The Committee on Contributions, advises the General Assembly on the proportion of the expenses of the UN among Members broadly, according to their capacity to pay. The Committee also advises the General Assembly on the assessments to be fixed for new Members, and on appeals by Members for a change of assessments. The Committee also provides advice on the action to be taken with regard to the application of Members who may be in arrears in the payment.

The Committee on Contributions meets annually for 3 to 4 weeks, usually in June of each year. The report of the Committee is considered by the General Assembly at its main session. In December 2018, the new scale of assessment was approved for 2019-2021.

What happens to those Member States if they do not contribute to the United Nations?

Article 19 of the Charter states that: 'A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member'.



Does each Member State contribute the same amount to the UN?

No. Each Member State contributes a different amount. The contribution by each Member States is calculated on a 'scale of assessment', which is done by the Committee on Contributions.

The scale of assessment is calculated by estimating each Member State's Gross National Product (GNP). Several adjustments for deductions are given for debt and low per capita incomes. Similar assessments are done for other organizations of the UN, including peacekeeping operations. For deciding on peacekeeping operations, the adjustments are made for average per capital GNP compared to global average GNP. This is reviewed every three years.



Which Member contributes the most to the United Nations?

The United States, with a share of 22%, is the largest contributor to the United Nations. USA's

GNP is approximately 27% of the total GNP of all members of the UN. The other top contributors are:

- China, 12.005%
- Japan, 8.564%
- Germany, 6.090%
- United Kingdom 4.567%
- France, 4.427%

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP) both reflect the national output and income of an economy. They are both used to measure the strength of a country's economy.



- *GDP is the market value of all goods, products and services produced by a county during a specified period;*
- *GNP is GDP plus worth of products and services produced by a country's citizens regardless of the geographical location, during a specified period.*

CHAPTER 5

United Nations Observances

The United Nations observes designated days, weeks, years, and decades, each with a theme, or topic. By creating special observances, the United Nations promotes international awareness and action on these issues. The majority of observances have been established by resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, although some have been designated by UN specialized agencies. The United Nations also observes anniversaries of key events in its history.

- International Days
- International Weeks
- International Years
- International Decades
- United Nations Anniversaries
- Celebrating Multilingualism



Why are these Observances necessary?

The United Nations designates specific days, weeks, years and decades as occasions to mark particular events or topics in order to promote, through awareness and action, the objectives of the UN. Generally, one or more Member States propose these observances and the General Assembly establishes them with a resolution.

International Days

Each international day offers many bodies the opportunity to organize activities based on the theme of the day. The UN offices, United Nations system, governments, civil society, public and private sectors, schools, universities citizens, make any international day an ideal environment for awareness-raising actions.

Who chooses International Days and how?

The *General Assembly* designates a particular date as an International Day. International days are proposed to the UN *General Assembly* by *Member States*. The *General Assembly* then decides by consensus whether to adopt the resolution establishing the particular day. The themes of international days are always linked to the main purposes of the United Nations. Some of international days are proclaimed not by the *General Assembly*, but by specialized agencies of the United Nations to draw the attention of the public to topics under their field of expertise, such as health, aviation, intellectual property, etc.



Which are some of the popular International Day Observances and how is it observed?

International Day of Human Rights, which takes place on 10 December is observed all around the world with initiatives ranging from military and police officers swapping guns for running shoes in South Sudan, to a student competition in Russia, or an exhibit in Brazil. All in all, a multitude of individuals from all walks of life get involved, in a way or another, in the celebration of this special day. Other most popular days include International Women's Day (8 March), World Water Day (22 March) and the International Day of Peace (21 September).

21 March is the date of five different international days;
June is the month with the most international days.



Some examples of International Days are:

January 24	International Day of Education
February 4	World Cancer Day
February 10	World Pulses Day
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
March 8	International Women's Day
March 20	International Day of Happiness
March 22	World Water Day
April 7	World Health Day
April 22	International Mother Earth Day
May 15	International Day of Families
May 16	International Day of Living Together in Peace
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity
May 29	International Day of UN Peacekeepers
May 31	World No-Tobacco Day
June 1	Global Day of Parents
June 5	World Environment Day
June 7	World Food Safety Day
June 8	World Oceans Day
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour
June 21	International Day of Yoga
July 11	World Population Day
July 15	World Youth Skills Day

July 30	International Day of Friendship
August 12	International Youth Day
August 19	World Humanitarian Day
September 5	International Day of Charity
September 8	International Literacy Day
September 15	International Day of Democracy
September 16	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
September 21	International Day of Peace
September 27	World Tourism Day
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence
October 5	World Teacher's Day
October 9	World Post Day
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child
October 15	International Day of Rural Women
October 16	World Food Day
October 24	UN Day
November 10	World Science Day for Peace and Development
November 14	World Diabetes Day
November 16	International Day for Tolerance
November 19	World Toilet Day
November 20	Universal Children's Day
November 21	World Television Day
December 1	World AIDS Day

December 10	Human Rights Day
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International Weeks:

Similarly, International Weeks are also celebrated. Some of these are:

April 24–30	World Immunization Week
May 6-12	UN Global Road Safety Week
October 4-10	World Space Week
October 24-30	Disarmament Week
November 6-12	International Week of Science and Peace
November 13-19	World Antibiotic Week

International Years:

The table lists some of the International Years from the year 2000 onwards:

2000	International Year for the Culture of Peace International Year of Thanksgiving
2004	International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition; & International Year of Rice
2005	International Year of Physics International Year for Sport and Physical Education
2008	International Year of Planet Earth International Year of Languages International Year of Sanitation International Year of the Potato
2009	International Year of Astronomy International Year of Reconciliation
2010	International Year of Youth International Year of Biodiversity

2011	International Year for People of African Descent International Year of Chemistry International Year of Forests International Year of Youth
2012	International Year of Cooperatives International Year of Sustainable Energy for All
2013	International Year of Water Cooperation
2014	International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People International Year of Family Farming
2015	International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies International Year of Soils
2016	International Year of Pulses
2017	International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development
2019	International Year of Indigenous Languages International Year of Moderation International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements
2020	International Year of Plant Health
2022	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture

International Decades:

The UN aims to make a difference in all aspects globally. Some of these, are longer term goals, and therefore, a decade is marked for the same. Some of these are listed here:

1995–2004	Decade for Human Rights Education
1997–2006	Decade for Eradication for Poverty
2001-2010	International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World

2003-2012	United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All
2005-2014	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
2005-2015	International Decade for Action, "Water for Life"
2008-2017	Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
2011-2020	United Nations Decade on Biodiversity Decade of Action for Road Safety
2014-2024	United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All
2016-2025	United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition
2018-2028	International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development"
2021-2030	International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
2021-2030	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

United Nations Anniversaries:

Some anniversaries celebrated by the United Nations are:

1998	50 th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
2008	60 th Anniversary of UN Peacekeeping Operations 60 th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
2009	20 th Anniversary of the Adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

2012	60 th anniversary of the UN Disarmament Commission (11 January)
2014	20 th anniversary of the International Year of the Family
2015	70 th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations
2018	70 th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 70 th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping 25 th Anniversary of UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination
2019	100 th anniversary of the International Labour Organization

Celebrating Multilingualism (*meaning of multilingualism: more than one language*).

The following days are celebrated at United Nations as per language:

- 21 February - International Mother Language Day
- 20 March - French Language Day at the UN
- 20 April - Chinese Language Day at the UN
- 23 April - English Language Day at the UN
- 23 April - Spanish Language Day at the UN
- 6 June - Russian Language Day at the UN
- 30 September - International Translation Day
- 18 December - Arabic Language Day at the UN

CHAPTER 6

India and the United Nations

UN Security Council:

India has been seeking a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. All members of the G4 (an organization composed of Brazil, Germany, Japan, and India), are currently seeking permanent representation. According to the G4 proposal, the UN Security Council should be expanded beyond the current fifteen members to include twenty-five members. If this actually happens, it would be the first time permanent Security Council status is extended to a South Asian nation and supporters of the G4 plan suggest that this will lead to greater representation of developing nations rather than the current major powers.

UN Budget:

India is a contributor to the UN budget. India's scale of assessment is 0.834% to the regular UN budget, and is at 24th place in the list of highest contributors. For 2019-2021, India needs to contribute US\$ 23.253 million (Rs. 163 crores, approx.). India's contribution to the UN budget in fiscal year 2014-2015 was Rs. 157 crores. In 2015-16, India's contribution rose to Rs. 244 crores, which was a 55% increase. India also contributes to other UN agencies like UNDP, UNICEF, UNEP etc. Among the BRICS nations (acronym for countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). India's contribution is more than only South Africa.

Peacekeeping missions:

India is the third largest contributor of troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions. India has contributed nearly 160,000 troops, the largest number from any country, participated in more than 43 missions and 156 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice while serving in UN missions. India has also provided and

continues to provide eminent Force Commanders for UN Missions.

Posts held by India at United Nations:

- Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, was the first Indian representative to the United Nations of free India. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was elected the first woman President of the UN General Assembly;
- Hansa Mehta, the Indian delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, was responsible for changing the language of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from “all men” are born free and equal in dignity and rights to “all human beings”;
- Dalveer Bhandari, appointed in 2012 is an Indian judge currently appointed at the International Court of Justice;
- Shakti Devi, is the recipient of the UN International Female Peacekeeper Award in 2014;
- Ambassador Gharekhan, served as President of the Security Council in 1991;
- Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar was first president of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Other interesting facts:

- India, is one of the countries that voted against the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT);
- India publishes more human development reports than any other country. The reports provide insights even at the district level;
- On 30 January, 1948, the morning of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the UN Security Council held a silent tribute to his memory;
- The Record for the longest ever speech in the United Nations Security Council is held by India's **Krishna Menon**. On 23rd January 1957, he delivered an unparalleled eight-hour speech while defending India's stand on Kashmir.

USO and the United Nations

United Schools Organisation of India (USO) was established in 1951, with an aim to promote teachings about the United Nations, among the youth. Started by Late Mr. Jiya Lal Jain, USO is one of the oldest non-government organizations in India with a mandate of advancing the social, cultural, and moral standards of school teachers and students across India to global standards. One such way is providing exposure to United Nations by means of the UN Information Test held annually.

Several United Nations officials, including United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Directors have presided over meetings and attended USO's numerous Conferences and Seminars. With an aim to imbibe peace education among schools in India, several UN ideals are constantly highlighted in various events and conferences organized by USO.

Did you know?

- The first UN Information Test was held 1958;
- So far, more than 6.5 million students all-over India have participated in our tests;
- USO awards cash prizes to students who secure 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes nationally. To date, USO has awarded Rs. 10 million to school students as cash prizes;
- Year-to-date, 5 million books have been published by USO to promote the teachings about the United Nations;
- UN Information Test Results are declared every year on UN Day, 24 October;
- The Asian edition of UN Chronicle was printed by USO (on behalf of the UN) and circulated nationally.

Sample Questions

Choose the right answer:

1. Who was the first Secretary General of the United Nations?
a) Kurt Waldheim (b) Ban Ki-moon (c) Trygve Lie (d) U Thant
2. The United Nations has been founded by _____.
a) USA (b) Members of Security Council
(c) All UN member states (d) All countries of the World
3. Most UN documents are issued in all six official languages.
a) True (b) False
4. Which of the following is not a permanent member of the UN Security Council?
a) China (b) Germany (c) France (d) Russian Federation
5. Who is the founder of United Schools Organisation of India?
a) Nina Jain (b) Aleyamma Jain (c) Jiya Lal Jain (d) All of these
6. Which is the last country to join the United Nations?
a) South Sudan (b) Montenegro (c) Vatican (d) Myanmar
7. Is UN membership open to all peace loving countries?
a) Yes (b) No
8. How many principal organs does the United Nations have?
a) 2 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 8
9. The UN headquarters in New York city is owned by _____.
a) U.S.A (b) United Nations (c) No one (d) New York city
10. What is the general term of office of the Secretary General of the United Nations?
a) 2 years (b) 4 years (c) 5 years (d) 10 years
11. Where are the headquarters of UN Security Council located?
a) New York (b) Paris (c) Washington DC (d) Vienna
12. In which city does USO have its offices?
a) Bengaluru (b) Mumbai (c) New Delhi (d) Hyderabad
13. How many members does the Security Council have?

- a) 5 (b) 10 (c) 15 (d) 25
14. What is the official title of the 'Chief Administrative Officer' of the United Nations?
a) Principal (b) President
(c) Secretary General (d) Director General
15. Who appoints the Permanent Representative of India to United Nations?
a) President of India (b) Prime Minister of India
(c) Secretary General of UN (d) President of USA
16. India is a permanent member of the UN Security Council.
a) True (b) False
17. When is UN Day celebrated each year?
a) October 2 (b) October 18 (c) October 24 (d) October 30
18. How many countries are members of the United Nations today?
a) 191 (b) 192 (c) 193 (d) 195
19. The United Nations has its own post office and own postage stamp.
a) True (b) False
20. How many judges are elected to the International Court of Justice?
a) 6 (b) 11 (c) 15 (d) 17
21. The UN headquarters in New York city is owned by _____.
(a) U.S.A (b) No one (c) United Nations (d) New York City
22. In which year was the United Nations founded?
(a) 1941 (b) 1943 (c) 1945 (d) 1947
23. What is the name of UN Library?
a) Dag Hammarskjold (b) Franklin Roosevelt
(c) International Library (d) Trygve Lie
24. When did India join the United Nations?
a) 1930 (b) 1945 (c) 1947 (d) 1971

PHOTO GALLERY



1.1 Eleanor Roosevelt with Universal Declaration of Human Rights



***1.2 Mr. António Guterres (Portugal) present Secretary General
Term of office: 2017 – to date***



Trygve Lie
(Norway)

Term of office 1946-1952



Dag Hammarskjöld
(Sweden)

Term of office 1953-1961



U Thant
(Myanmar)

Term of office 1961-1971



Kurt Waldheim
(Austria)

Term of office 1972-1981



Javier Perez de Cuellar
(Peru)

Term of office 1982-1991



Boutros Boutros Ghali
(Egypt)

Term of office 1992-1996



Kofi Annan
(Ghana)

Term of office 1997-2006



Ban Ki-moon
(Korea)

Term of office 2007-2016

1.3 Previous Secretaries-General of United Nations and terms of office



1.4 United Nations Stamp



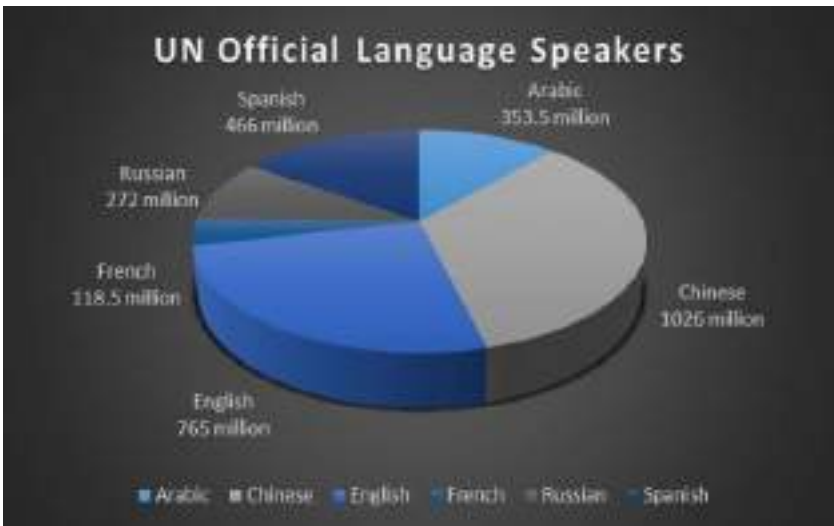
1.5 United Nations General Assembly



1.6 United Nations Security Council



1.7 UN Flag



1.8 UN Official Language Speakers

**Founder Author
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